

The best results are obtained against epileptic attacks at an early age. Albertoni and Rosenbach have shown that bromine in large doses dulls the irritability of the brain, as shown by experiments with electricity. I have observed that in cases of epileptic idiocy, the bromides have sometimes a dulling effect upon the intelligence, and injure the walking power. Scattered doses have no visible effect. Binswanger prescribes at first medium doses of from 5 to 6 grms. He considers the suspension of the reflex of the trifacial nerve to be a sign that a real narcosis has been reached.

Dr. Kauffmann has some hopes from the action of catalytic forces, as in platinum and palladium. Krainski has recommended carbonate of lithium, which seems still on its trial.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

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*Das Gedächtnis [Memory]*. By VON TH. ZIEHEN. Berlin, 1908. Pp. 50, 8vo. Price 1 mk.

At the opening of the Kaiser Wilhelm's Academy for the training of military surgeons Dr. Th. Ziehen delivered an address upon memory, a subject which has attracted the attention of thoughtful men from the earliest times. With characteristic thoroughness the German professor goes over the history of speculation from Empedocles to Munk; his learned notes, which fill sixteen pages, form an interesting part of the pamphlet. Indications of memory have been discerned in insects, such as bees. In vertebrate animals memory plainly appears in fishes, in which there is a rudimentary pallium with nerve-cells. When the ventricles of the brain were discovered the Greek and Arabian physicians fancied that these cavities might serve for storing mnemonic images. Hume thought that reminiscences were faint revivals of objective impressions, and we do not see how Dr. Ziehen refutes this by comparing the vividness of the remembrance of the impressions of different kinds, such as dull or very bright colours. He observes that in ordinary conditions unpleasant impressions pass away from the memory more quickly than agreeable ones, though in melancholia the power of reproduction of pleasant memories is cut off.

Dr. Ziehen rejects what has been called "unconscious cerebration" and sometimes "subliminal consciousness." It is only, he says, "a play with words—wooden iron—for if we take from psychical operations their only criterion, their conscious character, nothing remains but a contradiction." He claims that physiological research has now shown that mnemonic images are localised in a different part of the brain from perceptions. In a somewhat critical spirit he goes over mind-blindness and word-deafness. It is only when he comes to sensory aphasia that he feels firm ground. As he expresses it: "Word-blindness or alexia is nothing else than a special kind of mind-blindness, and word-deafness, or sensory aphasia, is but a special kind of mind-deafness."

Dr. Ziehen gives many interesting speculations, for which we must send the reader to the pamphlet itself. In conclusion it may be said that although he brings to this interesting subject all that physiology and pathology teach us, the author is constrained to acknowledge that

the difficulty of explaining mental processes by physical changes is not yet got over. Plato, he tells us, compared memory to a cage full of birds; the bird we hold in the hand is the thing we remember at the time; the others we can get at some way. Gassendi likened memory to a cloth which had been folded and which readily takes again the same folds. But then, with Plato's illustration, we have the person who sees and holds the birds, and the cloth does not recognise its own folds. Memory may be accompanied by changes in the brain, but we have to explain how these changes recognise themselves or are recognised.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

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*Sammlung Kleiner Schriften zur Neurosenlehre.* Second series. By Professor SIGMUND FREUD. Leipzig and Vienna: Deuticke, 1909. Pp. 206, 8vo.

In this second series of essays bearing on his doctrine of the nature of hysteria and other allied neuroses, the well-known Viennese professor has included much of a more specialised character than marked the first volume. Half the book is occupied by the long, elaborate, and highly characteristic "Fragment of Analysis of a Case of Hysteria," which has already received mention in the "Epitome" of the Journal. Among the studies included in the volume are a discussion of the hysterical fit in its possible sexual relationships, a paper on the sexual enlightenment of children, an exposition of the chief sexual theories spontaneously evolved by children, a suggestive though debatable essay on so-called "civilised" sexual morality in relation to modern neurotic conditions, and some speculations on day-dreaming as related to the poetic imagination.

The author displays his usual charm of exposition, and is throughout subtle, out-spoken, and convinced, if not always convincing. Many readers will not fail to find themselves opposed, even violently opposed, to some of his methods, and to not a few of his opinions and conclusions. But a collection of bald platitudes is not always the most helpful and stimulating reading. In any case, those who seek such reading must not interest themselves in the efforts of the pioneers who are attempting to penetrate unexplored fields of neuro-psychology. Among these pioneers Freud is one of the acknowledged leaders.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

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### Part III.—Epitome.

#### Progress of Psychiatry in 1908.

AMERICA.

By W. McDONALD, Jun.

To discern ever a forward movement in the confused activity of so new and intricate a branch of science there is need of hopefulness and faith as well as accurate insight. One must be a confirmed optimist,